

**Syllabus**  
**Philosophy 1500H**  
**Logic and Critical Thinking**  
**Spring 2009**  
**MWF 11:15 a.m.-12:05 p.m.**  
**Peabody 220**

**Instructor:**

Dr. Ashley Sherman

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 12:30-2:00 p.m.

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**Purpose:**

The primary goals of this class are to help you reason more clearly and be able to catch mistakes in reasoning. We shall work on recognizing and analyzing arguments, identifying fallacious arguments, and developing cogent arguments.

**Text:**

Hurley, Patrick, *A Concise Introduction to Logic*, 10<sup>th</sup> edition, Wadsworth Publishing, 2008.

The textbook is available at the Off-Campus bookstore on Baxter St.

Supplemental readings may also be required.

**Attendance:**

Class attendance is required. Any student whose total number of absences exceeds four, after the conclusion of drop/add, may be administratively withdrawn from the class without notice. Any student who is administratively withdrawn for non-attendance will receive a WF for the course.

**Punctuality:**

You are required to arrive to class on time. If you arrive after roll has been taken, you will be marked absent for the day.

**Classroom Environment:**

Please remember that this is a classroom environment, and you are to behave accordingly. This means that you must refrain from private conversation and any other disruptive behavior. If you fail to respect the academic environment, you will be asked to leave the classroom and will be marked absent for that day. Turn off your cellphone before coming to class!

**Readings , Class Exercises, and Extra Assignments:**

The schedule of reading assignments, exercises, and exams is given below. Readings and exercises should always be completed prior to the class meeting for which they are assigned. Each reading is accompanied by a set of starred exercises. You must attempt to complete these exercises. The answers are found in the back of the book. We will go over the un-starred exercises in class; you are expected to do all of the assigned exercises. You will not be responsible for any of the true-false questions found in the textbook.

Additional assignments will routinely be given throughout the semester. No late assignments will be accepted. If you are absent the day an assignment is due, you must either have the assignment delivered or e-mailed to the instructor by the beginning of the class period. Failure to do so will result in a zero for the assignment.

The point of the extra assignments is to have you see the relevance of the themes we will be discussing in your everyday life. Therefore, your examples must come from newspapers, magazines, television, or conversations. Examples found on the internet are not acceptable. You must cite the source of your examples; failure to do so will result in a zero for the assignment.

**Class Participation:**

Class participation is required. While there will be some lecturing, this class will focus on student discussion. I have found that the most effective way to teach this class is to spend a good deal of class time working on the exercises found in the book. Therefore, it is essential for the benefit of your own learning that you attempt all practice exercises before class and that you are prepared to present your work during class.

You will receive a grade for class participation. If you are not prepared for class, your participation grade will suffer.

**Grading:**

There will be three exams, each of which will count 25% of your final grade. Your extra assignments and class participation, combined, will count 25% of your final grade.

**Optional Final:**

You will have the chance to take an optional cumulative final exam. This optional exam will replace the lowest exam grade of the semester. In the event that the final exam is the lowest grade, it will be dropped.

**Make-Up Exams:**

Make-up exams are given only under the most pressing reasons such as serious illness or death in your immediate family. You must notify the instructor of your intended absence on an exam day no later than the day of the exam. Failure to do so will result in a zero for the missed exam. A make-up exam must be taken at the first possible time following the missed exam. There will be no make-up exam offered for the optional final.

This syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

### **Schedule of Readings and Assignments:**

- 1/9 Introduction
- 1/12 1.1 (p. 1-14)
- 1/14 Exercises 1.1
- 1/16 1.2 (p. 14-32)
- 1/19 Holiday
- 1/21 Exercises 1.2
- 1/23 1.3 (p. 32-42) and additional reading (Peirce) on WebCT
- 1/26 Exercises 1.3
- 1/28 Turn in extra assignment: bring an example of an argument (underline the conclusion), a statement of opinion, and an expository passage. *Explain* why these represent an argument, opinion and exposition.
- 1/30 1.4 (p. 42-54)
- 2/2 Exercises 1.4
- 2/4 Turn in extra assignment: bring an example of a deductive argument and *explain* why it exemplifies a deductive argument; bring an example of an inductive argument and *explain* why it exemplifies an inductive argument.
- 2/6 1.5 (p. 54-61)
- 2/9 Exercises 1.5
- 2/11 1.6 (p. 61-72)
- 2/13 Exercises 1.6
- 2/16 Exercises 1.6
- 2/18 Review
- 2/20 **First Exam**
- 2/23 3.1 (p. 113-116) and 3.2 (p. 116-131)
- 2/25 3.2 Exercises
- 2/27 Turn in extra assignment: bring an example of a fallacy of relevance; *explain* how it is representative of its particular fallacy.
- 3/2 3.3 (p. 131-149)
- 3/4 3.3 Exercises
- 3/6 Turn in extra assignment: bring an example of a fallacy of weak induction; *explain* how it is representative of its particular fallacy.

- 3/9 Spring Break  
 3/11 Spring Break  
 3/13 Spring Break
- 3/16 3.4 (p. 149-172)  
 3/18 3.4 Exercises  
 3/20 Turn in extra assignment: bring an example of a fallacy of presumption, a fallacy of ambiguity, or a fallacy of grammatical analogy. *Explain* how it is representative of its fallacy.
- 3/23 3.5 Exercises (#1-30)  
 3/25 3.5 Exercises (#31-60)  
 3/27 Review
- 3/30 **Second Exam**  
 4/1 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 (p. 468-487)  
 4/3 Analyze the analogies in the dialogue (p. 475-478)
- 4/6 Exercises for legal cases (p. 483-485)  
 4/8 Exercises #14 and #15 (p. 485-486)  
 4/10 Additional reading on analogical reasoning (WebCT)
- 4/13 Additional reading on analogical reasoning (WebCT)  
 4/15 Additional reading on analogical reasoning (WebCT)  
 4/17 Turn in extra assignment: Write an argument that is a refutation by logical analogy. Identify the argument being refuted and explain why you think the refutation has the same form.
- 4/20 Review  
 4/22 **Third Exam**  
 4/24 Writing Assignment
- 4/27 Writing Assignment  
 4/29 Writing Assignment  
 4/30 Review for optional final exam

Final exam (optional): Please consult the University's final exam schedule for the date, time, and location.